be able to receive from the outside an instruction indicating whether or not the source layer 3 address is included in the extension of the MPOA packet."

The paragraph beginning at page 10, line 7 is changed as follows:

"The layer 3 filter retrieving portion 23 retrieves the layer 3 filter information using those two received layer 3 addresses, determines whether or not passage through the filter is permissible (step 203), and the server MPOA packet processor 22 is informed of the result. The server MPOA packet processor 22 judges whether the information from the layer 3 filter retrieving portion 23 is "permissible" or "not permissible" (step 204). If "not permissible", error processing (step 205) is executed and the routine ends (step 206). If the result is "permissible", processing is executed for forwarding the received MPOA address resolution request packet to the other MPOA server or the other MPOA client for delivery to the server MPOA packet transmitting portion.

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. A method for transferring MPOA packets in an ATM network, comprising determining by an MPOA server which has received an address resolution request packet from an MPOA client whether or not said address resolution request packet is to be forwarded to another MPOA server or another MPOA client based on layer 3 packet filter information.

2. A method for transferring MPOA packets according to claim 1, the method comprising:

transmitting by said MPOA client a source layer 3 address of the data packet that is to be a short cut, said source layer 3 address being added as an extension to the MPOA address resolution request packet; and

determining by said MPOA server whether or not said MPOA address resolution request packet is to be forwarded to the other MPOA server or the other MPOA client based on said source layer 3 address placed in the extension and a destination layer 3 address in the MPOA address resolution request packet received from said MPOA client, after verifying the layer 3 packet filter information.

3. A method for transferring MPOA packets according to claim 1, the method comprising:

said MPOA client notifying a source layer 3 address processor by a client MPOA packet processor in said MPOA client of a MPOA address resolution request operation and a source layer 3 address information;

said MPOA client judging by the source layer 3 address processor about whether or not an outer instruction of said MPOA address resolution request operation directs including the source layer 3 address in the MPOA packet extension; and

said MPOA client transmitting to an MPOA server by a client MPOA packet transmitting portion the MPOA address resolution request packet with the MPOA packet extension added at said client MPOA packet processor.

4. A method for transferring MPOA packets according to claim 1, the method comprising:

a MPOA packet receiving portion of said MPOA server receiving the MPOA address resolution request packet from said MPOA client;

a MPOA packet processor of said MPOA server checking about whether or not the source layer 3 address is included in the received MPOA address resolution request packet; and

when said source layer 3 address is included, said server MPOA packet processor obtaining the source layer 3 address and a destination layer 3 address;

a layer 3 filter retrieving portion retrieving a layer 3 filter information using said source layer 3 address and said destination layer 3 address as the key;

said server MPOA packet processor judging by whether or not to permit passage of the filter; and

directing the execution of error processing,

wherein when passage of said filter is not permitted, directing the execution of processing for forwarding the received MPOA address resolution packet to the other MPOA server or the other MPOA client.